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A SONG CYCLE

FOR FOUR SOLO VOICES

(SOPRANO-CONTRALTO-TENOR & BASS)

WITH PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANIMENT

THE WORDS SELECTED FROM THE
RUBAIYÁT
OF
OMA DIVINIVAM

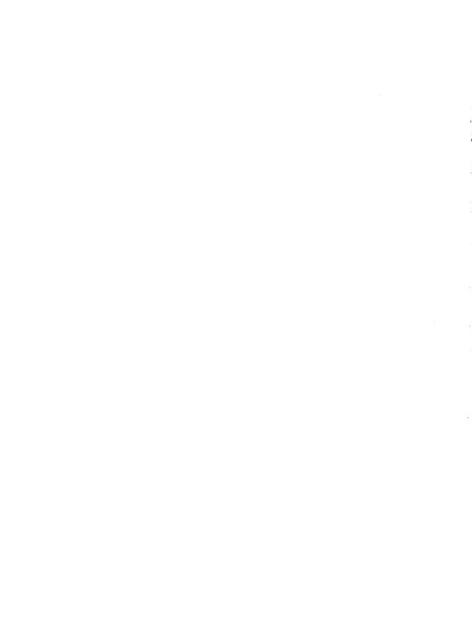
OMAR KHAYYAM (FITZGERALD'S TRANSLATION)

THE MUSIC COMPOSED BY LIZA LEHMANN

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# IN A PERSIAN GARDEN.

## A Song-Cycle

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(SOPRANO, CONTRALTO, TENOR, AND BASS)

With Pianoforte Accompaniment.

THE WORDS SELECTED FROM THE

RUBAIYÁT

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THE MUSIC COMPOSED BY

## LIZA LEHMANN.

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1.

### IN A PERSIAN GARDEN.

#### QUARTETTE.

(Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Bass.)

Wake! For the Sun who scatter'd into flight The Stars before him from the field of night, Drives night along with them from Heav'n, and strikes The Sultan's turret with a shaft of Light.

#### (Solo Tenor.)

Before the phantom of false morning died Methought a voice within the Tavern cried: "When all the Temple is prepared within Why nods the drowsy Worshipper outside?"

#### RECITATIVE (Bass).

Now the new year' reviving old Desires, The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires, Where the "White Hand of Moses" on the Bough Puts out, and Jesus from the Ground suspires.

#### (Solo Tenor.)

Iram indeed is gone with all his Rose, And Jamshyd's' sev'n-ring'd Cup where no one knows, But still a Ruby kindles in the Vine, And many a Garden by the water blows.

#### QUARTETTE.

(Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Bass.)

Come, fill the Cup, and in the fire of Spring Your Winter-garment of Repentance fling. The Bird of Time has but a little way To fly—and lo, the Bird is on the wing!

#### (Solo Bass.)

Whether at Naishapur or Babylon, Whether the Cup with sweet or bitter run, The Wine of Life keeps ozing drop by drop, The Leaves of Life keep falling one by one.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The "false dawn"; Subhi Kuzib, a transient light on the horizon about an hou before the Subhi Siddik, or "True Dawn": a well-known phenomenon in the East

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Beginning with the Vernal Equinox,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The "White Hand of Moses," Exodus iv. 6; when Moses draws forth his handnot according to the Persians "Leprous as Snow," but white as our Mayblossom in Spring. Perhaps, according to them, also the healing Power of Jesus resided in his breath.

Iram, a garden, plasted by King Shaddad, and now sunk somewhere in the sands of Arabia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Jamshyd's sev'n-ring'd cup was typical of the Seven Heavana, Seven Planett Seven Seas, &c., and was a Divining Cup.

#### CONTRALTO (Recitative).

Ah, not a drop that from our Cups we throw For Earth to drink of,' but may steal below, To quench the fire of Anguish in some Eye There hidden, far beneath, and long ago.

#### (CONTRALTO SOLO.)

I sometimes think that never blows so red. The Rose as where some buried Cæsar bled, That ev'ry Hyacinth the Garden wears Dropt in her lap from some once lovely head.

And this reviving Herb, whose tender green, Fledges the river—lip on which we lean,—Ah—lean upon it lightly—for who knows From what once lovely Lip it springs unseen.

#### DUET.

#### (Soprano and Tenor.)

A Book of Verses underneath the Bough, A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou Beside me singing in the Wilderness— Ah, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

#### (BASS Solo.)

Myself when young did eagerly frequent Doctor and Saint and heard great argument but evermore Came out by that same door where in I went.

With them the Seed of Wisdom did I sow, And with my own Hand labour'd it to grow, And this was all the Harvest that I reap'd, "I came like Water, and like Wind I go."

Why, all the Saints and Sages who discuss'd Of the two Worlds so learnedly, are thrust Like foolish Prophets forth; their words to scorn Are scatter'd, and their mouths are stopy'd with Dust.

#### (BASS RECITATIVE.)

Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend, Before we too into the Dust descend!

#### (CONTRALTO SOLO.)

When you and I behind the veil are past Oh, but the long, long while the World shall last—

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The custom of throwing a little wine on the ground before drinking still continues in Persia

#### (SOPRANO RECITATIVE.)

But if the Soul can fling the Dust aside And naked on the air of Heaven ride, Were't not a shame—were't not a shame for him In this clay carcase crippled to abide?

#### (SOPRANO SOLO.)

I sent my Soul through the Invisible, Some secret of that after-life to spell, And by-and-bye my Soul return'd to me And answer'd: I myself am Heav'n and Hell.

Heav'n but the vision of fulfilled Desire And Hell the Shadow from a Soul on fire, Cast on the Darkness into which ourselves, So late emerged from, shall so soon expire.

#### (TENOR SOLO.)

Alas! that Spring should vanish with the Rose! That youth's sweet-scented manuscript should close The Nightingale that in the Branches sang,
Ah, whence and whither flown again who knows?—

#### (CONTRALTO SOLO.)

The worldly hope men set their Hearts upon Turns Ashes, or it prospers; and anon Like Snow upon the Desert's dusty face, Lighting a little hour or two—is gone.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai, Whose Portals are alternate Night and Day, How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp, Abode his destined hour and went his way.

#### Waste not your hour!

#### (SOPRANO SOLO.)

Each morn a thousand Roses brings, you say; Yes,—but where leaves the Rose of yesterday?— And this first Summer month that brings the Rose, Shall take Jamshyd¹ and Kaikobád² away.

#### QUARTETTE.

(Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Bass.)

They say the Lion and the Lizard keep The Courts where Jamshyd gloried and drank deep, And Bahram, that great Hunter,—the wild Ass Stamps o'er his Head, but cannot break his sleep.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Jamshyd, the "King Splendid" of the Peshdadian dynasty.

King Kaikobád, called "the Great."

Lo, some we lov'd, the loveliest and best That from his Vintage rolling time has prest, Have drunk their Cup a round or two before, And one by one crept silently to rest.

Strange, is it not, that of the myriads who Before us pass'd the Door of Darkness through, Not one returns to tell us of the Road Which to discover we must travel too.

#### (TENOR RECITATIVE.)

Ah, fill the Cup! What boots it to repeat How time is slipping underneath our Feet.

Better be jocund with the fruitful Grape Than sadden after none, or bitter Fruit.

Ah, Love, could you and I with Fate conspire To grasp the sorry Scheme of things entire, Would we not shatter it to bits—and then Remould it nearer to the Heart's Desire!

#### (TENOR SOLO.)

Ah, Moon of my Delight, that knows no wane, The Moon of Heav'n is rising once again— How oft hereafter rising shall she look Through this same Garden after me—in vain.

And when thyself with shining Foot shall pass Among the Guests Star-scatter'd on the Grass, And in thy joyous Errand reach the Spot Where I made one—turn down an empty Glass!

#### (Bass Solo.)

As then the Tulip for her morning sup Of Heav'nly Vintage from the Soil looks up, Do you devoutly do the like, till Heav'n To Earth invert you—like an empty Cup.

So when that Angel of the darker Drink, At last shall find you by the river-brink, And, offering his Cup, invite your Soul Forth to your Lips to quaff—you shall not shrink.

#### QUARTETTE.

(Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Bass.)

Alas, that Spring should vanish with the Rose, That Youth's sweet-scented Manuscript should close! The Nightingale that in the Branches sang, Ah, whence and whither flown again, who knows? SONG-CYCLE.







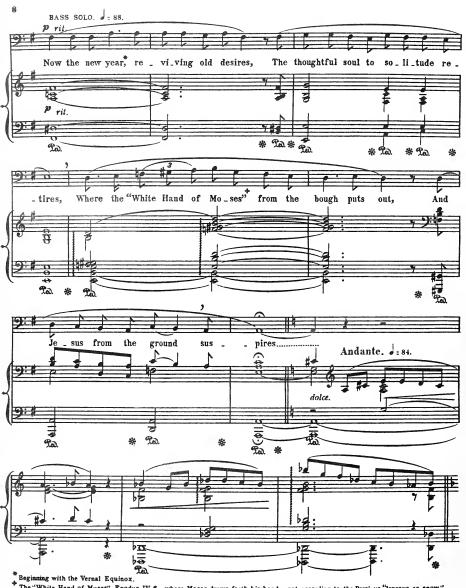












beginning with the vernal Lequinox.

The "White Hand of Moses" Exodus IV. 6. where Moses draws forth his hand not according to the Persiaus "leprous as snow".

but white as our May-blossom in Spring perhaps. according to them also the Healing Power of Jesus resided in his breath.



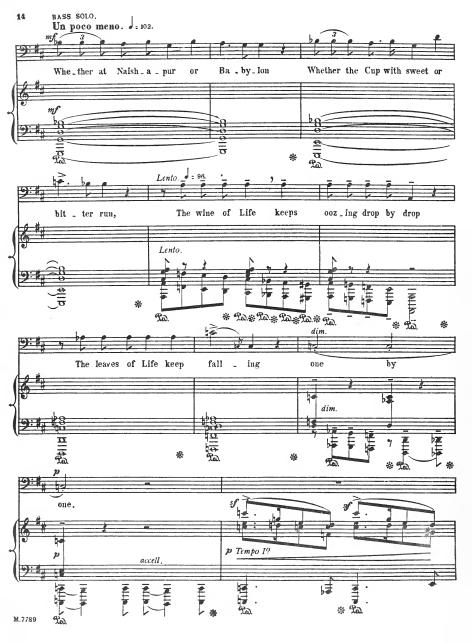
M. 7789. \*Jamshyds seventing'd cup was typical of the 7 Hoavens, 7 Planets, 7 Seas etc, and was a Divining Cup.















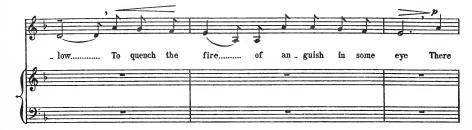


CONTRALTO SOLO.

Espressivo, ma non troppo lento. : 72.

Ah! not a drop that from our Cups we throw For earth to drink of but may steal be.









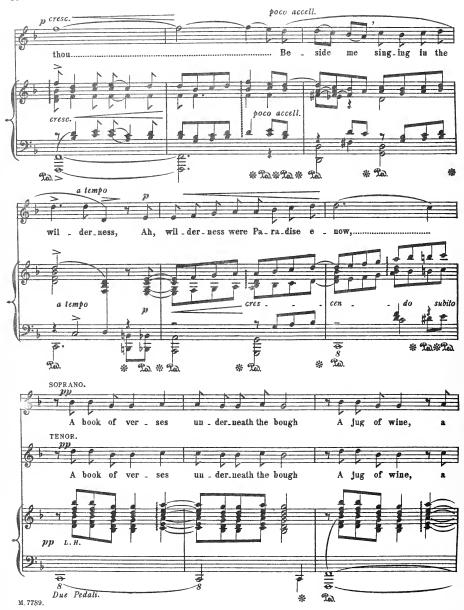
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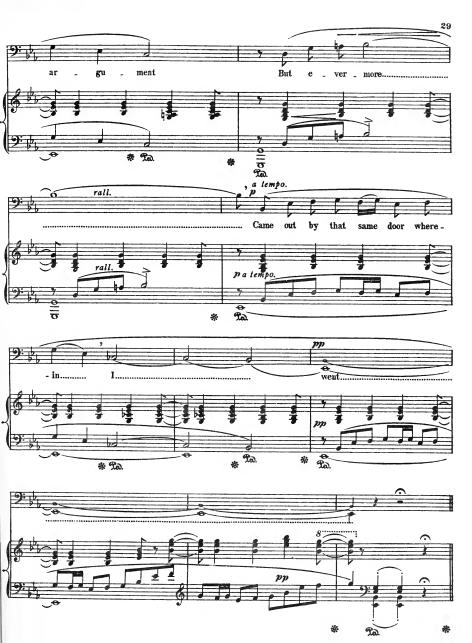


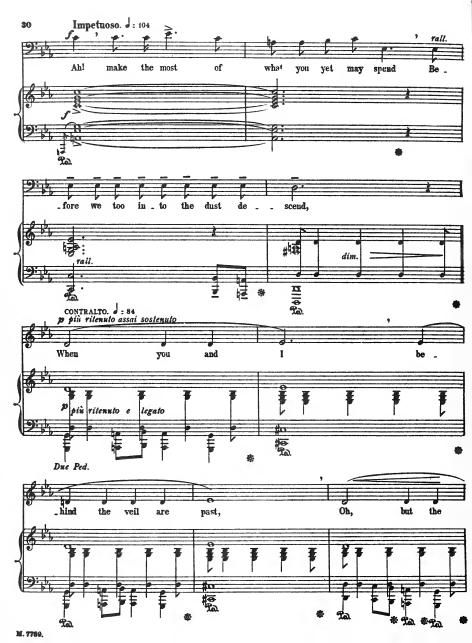




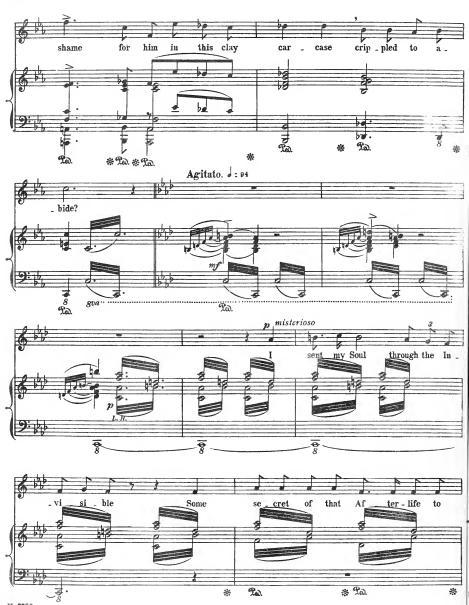






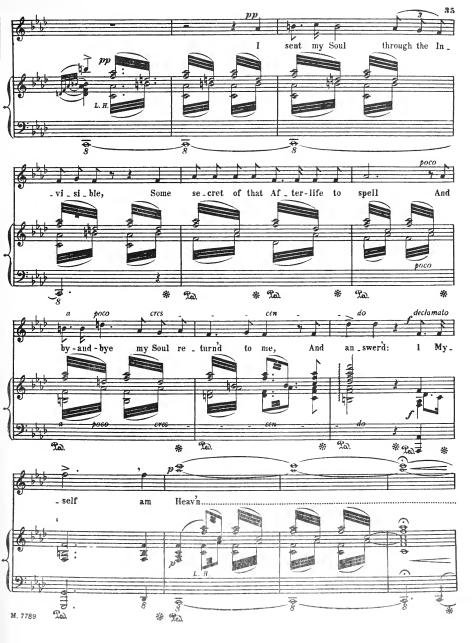














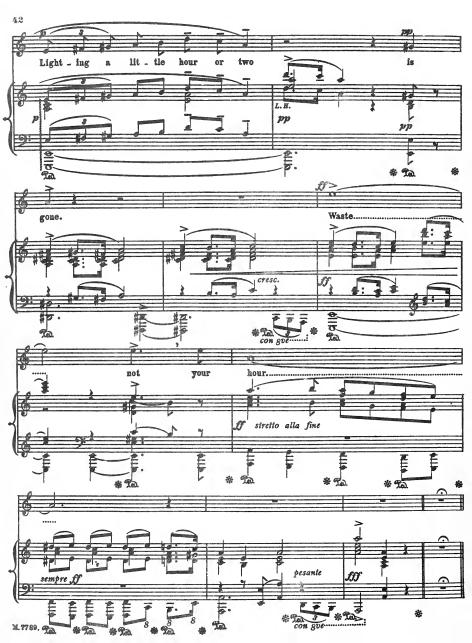


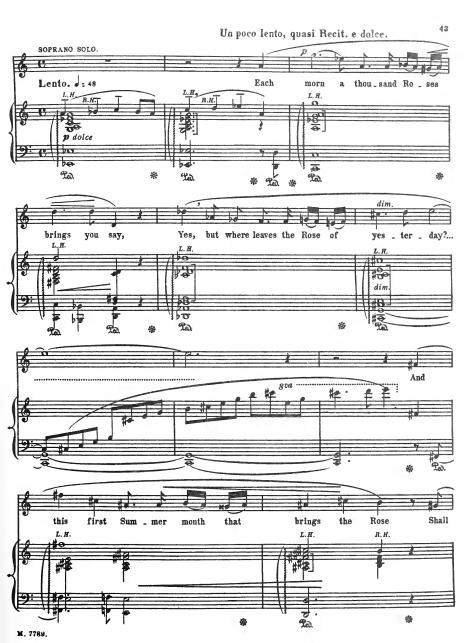


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\*Jamshyd\_ "King Splendid" of the mythical Peshdadian Dynasty. \*King Kaikobad, called "the great." M. 7789.























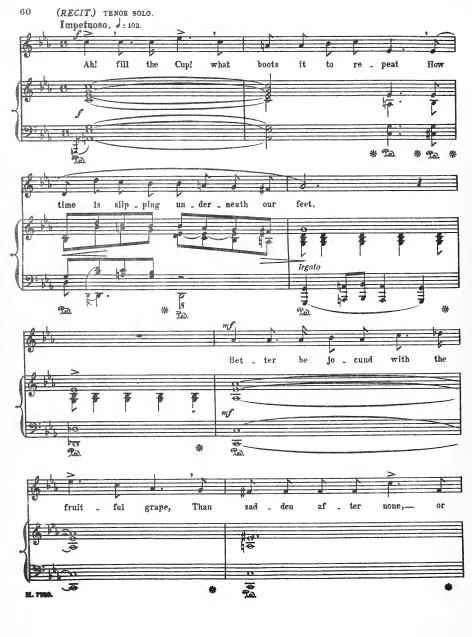


























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